(iii) Ship-breaking activity is controlled within the provision of various Acts and Rules namely, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous Waste Rules, 1989, Factories Act, 1948 etc. Central Pollution Control Board, State Control Board and Ministry of Environment and Forests monitor the level of pollution at the Shipbreaking Yards from time to time.

(iv) The Government of Gujarat has recently notified a regulation called Gujarat Maritime Board (Prevention of Fire and Accidents for Safety and Welfare of Workers and Protection of Environment during Ship breaking Activities) Regulations, 2000 under Gujarat Maritime Board Act, 1981. As per the Regulation, the Ship breakers need to enter into a licence agrement for ship breaking activities, beaching and cutting permission and compliance of environmental safety meaures and housekeeping.

(v) Gujarat Maritime Board has awarded the consultancy work for scientific management of solid wastes generated during ship breaking activity. The scope of work includes waste quantification, characterization, design of treatment and disposal facilities and post project monitoring.

(c) and (d) No such flouting of norms on the part of ship-breaking yards has been brought to the notice of the administrative Ministry concerned *i.e.* Ministry of Steel. However, Ship breaking activity is regulated as per the regulatory measures mentioned above.

Vacancies in PSUs

*496. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of top posts of Chairmen/CEOs/Directors lying vacant in Public Sector Undertakings for the last three years, till date;

(b) whether non-filling of top posts has resulted in poor efficiency and lack of talent/skill of such PSUs; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to fill up these vacant posts in order to enhance efficiency and profitability of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Three posts of Chief Executives and four posts

of Functional Directors were vacant in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for more than three years as on 28.2.2002.

(b) The Board of Directors as a whole is responsible for the efficient operation of a PSU. In case of vacancies of Chief Executives/ Directors, officiating arrangements are made by the administrative Ministries/Departments to maintain managerial functions and efficiency of the Company.

(c) Out of the seven posts, four are kept in abeyance, in two cases deputation is being considered and in one case a Search Committee has been set up to make the selection. Filling up of vacant Board level posts is a continuous process and is done in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Assistance to NGOs promoting voluntary action for disabled in Gujarat

*497. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the NGOs working on the Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities in Gujarat;

(b) the assistance extended to such organizations since operation of the scheme; and

(c) the progress made, till date?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) 25 Non-Governmental Organizations have been assisted since the inception of the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities in Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 315.71 lacs has been released as grant-in-aid to these organizations under this Scheme in the last three years.

(c) The Scheme has been helpful in providing facilities of education, training and rehabilitation services to the disabled in the State. Around 90,000 persons have benefited under the programmes funded under this Scheme during the last three years.

Legislation on assisted reproductive technique

*498. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to